93. Rs. 2,439 under "39—(3)—Price Control Measures—Popularisation of Dry grains—Establishment"

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 2,439 under establishment under "39—3—Price Control Measures—Popularisation of Dry grains —Establishment". This amount is intended for the establishment charges that is being met from the beginning of this year. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction the allotment.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What is the idea underlying the popularisation of dry grains ? Is it not popular now ?

Mr. President: Order, order, there is a cut motion on this demand.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Before I move the cut motion I may be informed that the ration allowed is not 16 ozs. per day.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes 16 ozs.

CUT MOTION

* **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: I move that this *allotment be reduced by Re. I to urge upon the Government that poor ration card holders may not be forced to purchase for price wheat along with rice to which they are entitled to.* Now Sir, Cochin Government comes first for unstinted praise as far as their activities in time. I emphasize the word in time regarding rationing and control. I also concede, Sir, that our food situation was at certain periods in early days, very gloomy, and very many intolerable things had to be done by the Government, though in the real sense of the word it was not very much appreciated by the people and liked by them. The purchase of wheat is an item which comes under that category. Wheat is not very much liked, not because of its intrinsic defects but because of other difficulties for the poor people. There is a lot of difference between a rich man like the Hon'ble Member for Medicine being forced to purchase wheat and a poor man like me or a poorer man than myself being forced to purchase wheat. In the case of the former class of persons, richer classes are forced to purchase they have got the means, they have got the time to prepare this wheat into proper kind of food. That is not so in the case of poor man. So there is a difference between the richer classes being forced if necessary to purchase and the poor sections of the community being forced to purchase wheat. And when that becomes a condition precedent for his getting the legitimate quantity of rice whether it is sixteen or twenty ounces, when it is a condition precedent that we have to purchase a certain quantity of wheat otherwise you have to forfeit your rice ration. The position is it is telling very hard upon some sections of the subjects. This is a subject which has been mooted before this House and the Government on very many occasions and invariably the answer had been something to this effect, that we have under various conditions to purchase a very large stock of wheat. One argument was that unless a particular quantity of wheat is also taken rice will not be had to a particular amount of import from provinces. I have no quarrel with that. If the condition of our getting a particular quantity of rice is that proportionate quantity of wheat or other dry grains must also be purchased, by all means we have to succumb to it. We have no control over them and we purchase it. I have no quarrel with the Government. But being in possession of wheat if you do force it down to the throat of the poor, it is not a question of literally forcing, but it is forced down.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How to dispose it off?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: To dispose of unwanted stock there are so many methods. Possessing as you do—backwaters—You can dispose of it there. Then there are various other methods as the one we had last year when large quantities of wheat was being put to auction. For what price ! That information did not come although promised. There are ever so many method of disposing. It is excellent food for cattle. Why not our emaciated cattle be fed upon this. Give the cultivator a free quantity of wheat and give him advice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Without money.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I ask a serious question whether the Government of Cochin which has started the transfer of 25 lakhs from the accounts of 1119, our Revenue Reserve Fund accumulating to 76·75 lakhs. Why not have this from the big amount. Is that anything too much for the representatives of the people to ask the Government

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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and to request the Government in all humility that it may be pleased to dispose of the stock of a very large quantity of extra wheat. I do not want to give out the figures of wheat that you have got practically useless and has seen from certain circulars issued recently. What does it show. Your stock is there very very bad and it is that stock, Sir, that is asked to be purchased by the poor man if he has to get his rice quota. Is there justification? If you are prepared to give it, give it to him free. It is only a question of disposing of stock. Without doing such thing give it free to the poor man or give it free to the people who want to use it, but do not force the poor man, the ration card holder who goes to his Fair Price Shop after getting his wages. The price of one Edangazhi of rice is not fixed for ordinarily. In order that the rice may be given you must hand over another one anna to purchase one nazhi of w heat. After all one who can hand over 0—6—4 should he not, hand over another one anna? For a rich man whose case I said it is very easy. But for a poor man who with very great difficulty hands 0—6—4 for the price of one Edangazhi, for him to hand over another one anna to purchase one nazhi of wheat which alone will give him this one Edangazhi is something hard. It is slur on the fair name of the Government of Cochin. That slur is caused by something wrong being done to the poor people. That is the object of this cut. I hope, Sir, without indulging in the usual sort of replies when such matters are being discussed the Hon'ble Member for Supplies will rise equal to the occasion. I am not enamoured of my own situation. You may find out your own suggestion. Let no poor man be forced to purchase wheat to entitle him to purchase rice. I hope it will be accepted by the Government and if not accepted I request that the Hon'ble Members of this House may be pleased to vote in one body with this proposition which is moved on behalf of the poor people of the State whose starvation has been avoided by the Government by their good action and it has been brought up to the level at which we can supply 16 ozs. for all that you have done I praise the Government. For bringing the rice ration to 16 ozs. the country praises the Government and all the officials in the Department. We have only condemnation of Government only in this matter. Don't force us to convey this opinion on the Government. Don't force the poor people to purchase this wheat for the allotted quantity of rice.

*Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether this wheat is compelled to be purchased in British South Malabar.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* In British Malabar it is compulsory.

*Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I wish to contribute a few words to this discussion. I know we are helpless in the distribution of food stuff and we had to act according to a circumstances under which wheat is compelled to be bought by the poor people, Government have at present a substantial surplus to the extent of a crore of rupees. I had suggested in the beginning of control days that the Government may liberally contribute 8 lakhs of rupees in a year for the purpose of easing the situation. This 8 lakhs of rupees is seldom paid. I take my stand on that even to-day when the Government are compulsorily making the people to buy wheat. If the poor is exempted who is to buy. The rich people like the Hon'ble Member for Medecine can be counted on the fingers' ends. So if they are compelled to buy wheat and the others are not complled to buy wheat the stock will remain stagnant. But the consideration is this many poor people have not even money enough to buy their full ration so that many people do not buy their full quantity of rice. Now wheat also must compulsorily bought. Hence the rice ration is still less. They have to distribute the money between the rice and the wheat. Although our intention is to feed people as much as possible with grains like rice and we are increasing the ration still the full benefit does not go to the people, becuase they have not got enough money to buy the full ration of rice. They have to distribute the money between the rice and wheat. That is the hardship that is worked. I would therefore suggest to the Government that a discrimination must be made. I think wheat has become a popular element in every household. Even the poor man in many cases makes a wheat Kangi and takes the rice for the two meals. I think it is not bad. Many people are better off in health by such mixed food and therefore it is good to popularise and make people train to it. Whether the training will last even after the war is a question that has to be deeply thought of. Sir. T. Vijayaraghavachari in a lecture in Madras stated that after all there is not much difference between rice and wheat. People can get on as well with rice as with wheat and rice. It does not matter what they eat. The suggestion that I throw out to the Government is to compel more wheat to be taken by public institutions like hotels, eating houses, etc. In these places there is large number of people and they must be compelled to take more wheat perhaps double quantity. In that way wheat also will be sold at the same time in the ration card you put discretion to the people in cases

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where they cannot afford to buy both wheat and rice at least the rice in full some such arrangements have to be made. Government must examine the whole situation and use some discretion. At the same time it should be understood that the well-to-do people must be made to buy. Government must make free grant to the other people that is all. Government are saying that we have a crore of rupees. After all it is not your money. It is our money for feeding. After all it is not going to feed the poor or the number of people who still starve. We cannot afford to do that. We have not come to that stage to prevent all starvation and to make food as free as air and water. There are people who suggest that food also should be free as water. Therefore, Sir, I request you to examine the conditions and if possible tell the Government of India to supply lesser wheat and more of rice. After all the whole people above the Vindhya Range only eat wheat Many people in Sind and other places. We should make an attempt to impress that our ration of wheat; is more than what is required and if possible reduce it. The other is the methods of discretion, free gifts. I do not think my Hon'ble colleague from Vadakkancheri would require free gifts of food stuffs.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Not I. Poorer people than myself.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* That is a different claim altogether and that is not a feasible thing.

If we do away with compulsion I am afraid no wheat will be sold, not even 1/20th of the wheat now sold. I am not at present any way prepared to support a motion saying that compulsory sale should be completely stopped. It will not be possible and not a feasible idea at present but some kind of discretion may be exercised to give some relief.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Sir, on behalf of the poor the motion is brought in this House and on behalf of the poor I oppose it. If any difficulty in the food situation arises here it is the poor that will suffer most. It is mostly on behalf of the poor that the Government have taken all these measures. If we can somehow or other persuade the Government of India not to send wheat quota along with our rice quota I do not want the Government to compel the people to purchase wheat. If we are not able to do that we will have to compel people to by wheat along with rice. If I understand the Hon'ble Mover correctly I think he is asking the Government not to force people to buy damaged wheat. If there is any quantity of damaged wheat I ask the Government not to give even free to the people. It should be burnt. It should not be given even for cattle. The merchants will sell it to the poor people. Therefore it should be destroyed as is being done in all civilised countries.

There is another aspect of the question also. In Madras where there is no scarcity of rice, even there they are trying to popularise the wheat. As the poet says "Sweet are the uses of adversity", the compulsion of wheat is a sweet use of our adversity the people have generally an aversion for wheat here and generally they will prefer even rotten rice to excellent wheat for considerations of their health it is better to compel them to buy wheat. In the coastal regions. I think there is a marked improvement in the health of people, since this compulsion was introduced here. Therefore: there is no urgent necessity of taking away this compulsion now. (*Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.* Hear, hear). If you can get sufficient rice without this wheat quota you may give it up. For the present, I think we will have to continue it, and that too on behalf of the poor.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: സർ, ഈ ഉണക്കധാന്യപ്രചരണത്തിനു മുമ്പു പ്രത്യേകസംഖ്യ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു എനിക്കഭിപ്രായമില്ല. ഗോതമ്പ് തിന്നുന്നതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ജനങ്ങളുടെ തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകളെല്ലാം തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങിനും മുമ്പു കാലത്തു വലിയൊരു ചീലവുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഗോതമ്പുതിന്നുന്നതിലുള്ള ഭയംകൊണ്ടു് മുമ്പു കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങായിരുന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ചിരുന്നതു്. ഗോതമ്പിലുള്ള തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകളെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോൾ തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഗോതമ്പു് പുഴുങ്ങിക്കുത്തി അരിയാക്കി വിതരണംചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അതു് അരിയേക്കാൾ നല്ലതാണെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്കുമനസ്സിലായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ഫുഡ് അഡൽട്ടറേഷൻ കമ്മറി നിർബ്ബന്ധമായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടുവകമില്ലിൽ മില്ലുചെയ്യിക്കയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അതു ഇപ്പോൾ രണ്ടുമൂന്നുമാസമായിട്ടും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്നു് വേണ്ടപോലെ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. കുറെ ഗോതമ്പ് മില്ലിൽചെയ്തു് കൊണ്ടുവന്നപ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങഴിക്കു് നാലണ രണ്ടരപൈമാത്രമെ വിലവന്നിട്ടുള്ളു. സി. എം. എസ്സുകാർ, ബാവ, പുത്രൻ, ട്ലിഷ്വായെന്നും, റോമോസിറിയൻസ്സ്, ബാവ, പുത്രൻ, ത്രഹാദ

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ക്കുദാശയെന്നും, ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ ബ്രഹ്മൻ, വിഷ്ണു, മഹേശ്വരൻ എന്നും പറയുന്നതുപോലെ ത്രിമൂത്തികൾക്ക് ഇതില്ലാതെകഴിയുവാൻ പ്രയാസമായിരിക്കും. (ചിരി) ഇതുപുഴുങ്ങി, ഉണക്കി അരിയാക്കികൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ സാധുക്കളായ കൂലിവേലക്കാർക്ക് അങ്ങിനെതന്നെ വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടുപോയി ഭക്ഷണമാക്കി കഴിക്കുവാൻ എളുപ്പമായിരിക്കും. ഗോതമ്പുകഴിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അരികൊണ്ടുള്ള ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ ശരീരത്തിന്ന് ശക്തിയും പുഷ്ടിയും ഉണ്ട്. ധാരാളം ആളുകൾ ഈ ഭക്ഷണംകൊണ്ട് തടിച്ചു കൊഴുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഗോതമ്പുകൊണ്ടുള്ളപായസം സ്ത്രീകളിൽ കൊടുക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ മടിയന്മാരായ കുട്ടികളുംകൂടി സ്ത്രീകളിലേക്കുപോയിതുടങ്ങീട്ടുണ്ട്. (ചിരി) എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ പുളിയുടെമാതിരിയിൽ നാലഞ്ചുകൊല്ലത്തെ പഴക്കമുള്ള ഒരുമാതിരി ശക്കരയിട്ട പായസംവെച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോഴാണ് കുട്ടികൾ ഇല്ലാതായിതുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. റസ്റ്റോറൻറുകളിലുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന പലഹാരം മുഴുവനുംഗോതമ്പാണു്. വയറുവേദനയുള്ള ഒരു രോഗിയോട് പ്രസിദ്ധനായ ഡോക്ടർ സോമർവേൽപറഞ്ഞതു്, കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങ് ഭക്ഷിക്കാതിരിക്കുകയും, ഗോതമ്പുധാരാളം ഭക്ഷിക്കുകയും വേണമെന്നാണു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം ഗോതമ്പുവളരെ നല്ലതാണെന്നാണു്. ഇതിനു് യാതൊരു പ്രചരണവും ആവശ്യമില്ല. പ്രചരണാർത്ഥം പണവും ചിലവഴിക്കേണ്ടതില്ല. ഒന്നോ, രണ്ടോ മിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും കമാണ്ടിയർചെയ്തു് ഗോതമ്പെല്ലാം പുഴുങ്ങി ഉണക്കിമില്ലുചെയ്തു കഴിയുന്നിടത്തോളം ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളസംഖ്യ അതിനുവേണ്ടി ഉപയോഗിക്കുക. ഈ കാര്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി തൊഴിലാളികളായ കൂലിക്കാരുടെപേരിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട കൊച്ചിക്കണയന്തൂർ ഈഴവമെമ്പർ മിസ്റ്റർ അയ്യപ്പൻ മുതലകണ്ണീർ പൊഴിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എനിക്കു് പറയുവാനുള്ളത് ഈ പച്ചഗോതമ്പു് അങ്ങിനെതന്നെ കൊടുക്കുന്നത് തൊഴിലാളികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോളം വലിയ ഒരു അക്രമമാണു്. ഇത് പുഴുങ്ങി, ഉണക്കി മില്ലുചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുക. അതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണു് പരിശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടത്. അല്ലാതെ വേറെയൊന്നിനുവേണ്ടി ഈ സംഖ്യ ചിലവാക്കരുതെന്നു് ഒരപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്.

***Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam)*: Sir, I do not see eye to eye with the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri. I do not also agree with the Hon'ble Member for Kanayannur-Ezhuvas when he says that if the Government of India is prepared to give us full quota of rice then of course the wheat quota can be done away with. Even if the Government of India is prepared to give the full quota of rice I would request the Government to receive sufficient quantity of wheat also and keep on the policy of compulsion for some time more so that people may be accustomed to eat wheat. Two years before the scarcity for food stuffs commenced I have begun to eat wheat once a day. My personal experience is that I have been more healthy during these four years than during the early part of my life.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur)*: But you do not look so.

***Mr. C V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam)*: I would like to bring to the notice of the Government in this connection that the poor people are black-marketting at a lesser price the wheat they purchase to the richer and more intelligent class of people among us because there is a natural aversion in a good number of people due to their ignorance for eating this wheat with the result that the price of wheat at the black-market rate is one anna less than the Government rate. The poor people achieve this object without losing anything because of the indiscriminate policy of distribution of sugar to the Government. The Government give sugar to every family. They will be very well satisfied with jaggery. Sugar can be black-marketted at a higher price to the richer class, the people who do not get sufficient for their use and the wheat is sold at a lower price. The ordinary rate is one anna less than the Government rate. This may be investigated. The poor people will get rice from the black-market at a higher rate. These things can be stopped very easily by reducing the sugar quotas given to families which do not require them. Then they will begin to eat wheat. Of course, even if normal times come and even if Burma is able to supply us rice and if the Chalakkudi Scheme and the Thungabhadra Scheme are going to supply us rice in large quantities, even then the habit of wheat eating must be encouraged so that the health of both the rich and poor alike may be improved. So under the present circumstances anyway and also in the interests of the future generations I request the Government to keep on the present policy of compulsory wheat.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Mr. President, Sir, I crave the indulgence of this House to explain a few facts which have come up before the House in the

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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course of the discussion. In the first place, by the policy of compulsion of wheat, it is not the idea of the Government to thrust upon the people, wheat which is not fit for consumption. By the introduction of compulsory wheat the intention of the Government is only to issue wheat fit for consumption. Government are taking infinite pains, I can assure the House, to recondition our stock of wheat as often as possible. We have also taken steps to avoid importing large quantities of wheat when we have sufficient stock. At present I may inform the House that our stock of wheat is only enough for about three months. There seems to be a suspicion lurking in the minds of some Hon'ble Members that this compulsion is imposed because the Government want to get rid of a large portion of wheat in its possession. It is not so. The first fuudamental fact that I wish to place before the House is that it is now agreed by all that the standard ration of our people should not, if possible, fall below one pound of cereals per day. That is also the decision of the Government of India on the recommendations of the Gregory Committee.

So we start with the assumption that our people require one pound of cereals per day. Under the existing conditions we have been definitely told by the Government of India that it is not possible to make up this deficit wholly in rice. At first the deficit was being made up by allotting food grains, mostly millets. As our people are quite unfamiliar with millets there was a cry against other from all over the country, and in response to representations made of the Government from this year onwards the grain allotted to us to make up one deficit will be wheat only. Hence in the coming year rice and wheat alone will be issued. The next question is if we believe that one pound of cereal is required for the people should we not take adequate steps to see that such ration is consumed by people. Our experience shows, especially with regard to the poor people, that unless there is an element of compulsion it is not likely that they will purchase it, I may inform the House that out of the total number of ration cards the daily card-holders number about one lakh and eighty thousand and weekly card-holders number about forty-eight thousand. That shows that the majority of our people are poor. It is our duty to devise a system by which they get the nourishment they want and I am sure that they are bonefitted by the arrangements, we have made. At first there was no element of compulsion at all. Even though rice ration was very meagre several families starved on account of conservative habits and dislike for grains they are not accustomed to. No amount of persuasion or demonstration would convince the villager about the advantages of taking to wheat as food. Hence it was that we introduced this compulsion. From what we know the time has not yet come when we can safely withdraw this compulsion. The chances are if the element of compulsion is withdrawn they will not buy the portion of wheat that is required for their health. So the first necessity for compulsion is that rice ration that we are able to give the people does not come up to the standard of ration that is required. The feasible method that we now have to see that the ration reaches the people is to introduce an element of compulsion. Here the compulsory portion of wheat comes to 1/4th of the rice ration. In Travancore the proportion is a little higher as the card-holder has to purchase wheat at the ratio of 1/3rd of the rice he purchases. The conditions there also are similar. Another fact which has to be mentioned in this connection is that it is admitted on all hands, apart from the question of sufficiency of rice ration that even for rice eating people an element of wheat in their staple diet is good and necessary. So we are not doing any violence to the health of the people by the rule regarding compulsory purchase of wheat.

The next argument was "it may be very good to eat wheat. But what do you say about the purchasing capacity of the people?" If a poor man has got one rupee at his disposal, what I would suggest is that, instead of going in for rice, he must distribute it for rice and wheat. That will provide him with a better diet. So the suggestion that he must utilise the whole rupee for rice and the purchase of wheat becomes an additional burden does not arise. Another aspect which I would like to place before the House is that though our food situation is now better still we are not sure as to what may happen in future. There may be surprises, there may be vicissitudes of season. Our supplies depend not only upon the crops in this State, but also upon the correction of the crops outside the State especially the surplus rice producing areas and also upon transport facilities so that if there is any hitch, any where if any of the circumstances on which our rice supplies depend turn out to be unfavourable, it is possible that we may again be faced with a grave situation so that we will have to resort to more rigorous measures. It will be difficult then suddenly to fall back upon wheat and again train the people to eating wheat for their staple diet.

The next suggestion was that wheat should be sold free. I may inform the House that we are now spending over a lakh of rupees by way of subsidy on wheat every month. It does not seem

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possible for the Government to issue the entire wheat ration free. The amount now contributed is not small and anything more does not seem to be possible.

Then the Hon'ble Mover has said that the issue of wheat ration should be confined to those who want it. As stated already if we think that a sufficient standard of cereals should be made available to the poor people there can be little doubt that there should be an element of compulsion. Otherwise they will not have a healthy diet.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: On a point of information, Sir, I would like to know when the last consignment of wheat was imported into Cochin?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Three months back.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: The quantity please?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Six thousand bags.

***Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, with all that has been stated by some of the Hon'ble Members as also by the Hon'ble Member for Supplies my proposition remains with all the force that it has. My case deliberately or otherwise has not been appreciated in the way in which it has been presented. My case, Sir, is not that wheat is not a good food. My case again is not, Sir, that we have got sufficient rice to have one pound of cereals per adult. My case was that the poor ration card- older who is accustomed to rice and rice alone and which has stood him in very good stead till this day because of his being unaccustomed to wheat he may not be forced to purchase wheat as a condition precedent for the purchase of rice which he wants. That is the proposition. That proposition has not been answered by anybody. Some Hon'ble Members stated that in the name of the poor the policy should be continued. Alright. Let them have their enjoyment. Others stated that for the sake of the health not only of the present but of the future generation wheat must be forced down the throat of these people. By all means let them do so. Then it was stated by the Hon'ble Member for Supplies that the expert opinion was that "Atta" or some other preparation will be a better diet. But from the very quotation he read my Hon'ble friend just pointed out one word. He was more attentive than myself. "White rice" as contra-distinguished to rice which is not over-milled. If rice which is not over-milled is used all the purpose served by the other variety of things will follow. So please don't try to carry us away by quotations from very competent authorities without laying stress at the proper place and on the proper word. Now the essence of the Hon'ble Member's reply is to this effect. The Government of India has said that one pound of cereals will be a proper food for an adult. Whether the Government of India says or another Government says or we think, what is necessary for an individual is necessary. For that expert opinion is not necessary. From our experience we find that one pound of cereals is in very many cases is not necessary in an equal number of cases necessary and in very few cases not sufficient also. That will depend upon various circumstances. Let us take that one pound is necessary and it is known very well that we are not producing anywhere near that. It is also the Government of India's dictum that they are not in a position to give us the whole deficit that we want in rice. Therefore necessarily we have to purchase some dry grains. I do not ignore that fact. The answer kindly given to the last questions put by me, namely the last consignment and the quantity three months back and six thousand bags, that has got a story behind it. The bulk of your stock is not of recent importation. The bulk of your stock is very very old. I do not quarrel with you for purchasing it at that time. That was a period when you had to go in for all sorts of food-stuffs, something to fill the stomach. That was the period. I have no quarrel with that purchase. But when you find that that stock has deteriorated, that it has become unfit for human consumption, that it is a stock which is not very much relished by the people even in good condition, please don't force the people to purchase it. That is the argument. We have seen that the rice ration has actually increased from what it was previously. So with raised ration although the Government of India's view is that one pound of cereal is necessary, our practical experience is that with the rice ration that is now allotted by the Government we can manage without impairing our health. There is no use of the Government saying that an individual can get 16 ounzes. The party must have the where withal to purchase those 16 ounzes. As suggested by the Hon'ble Member for Supplies if the amount in hand is to be distributed between rice of certain quantity and wheat of certain quantity, that is what purchasing capacity you have got has to be distributed for a stuff that is wanted and for a stuff that is not wanted. I think, although it is the concern of the Government to take care of the health of the people, it is equally, perhaps more, the concern of the people concerned to look after their

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health and when they from their traditional habits—call it conservatism if you like—think that it is rice that they want why should your paternal feelings go to the extent of forcing down his throat something which he does not like to swallow and that after taking money from him. It unfortunately stands unanswered. But with what I saw from this side of House which I did not expect I do not want to show the public the real picture and therefore I seek leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Cut Motion by leave withdrawn

Demand put and carried

94. Rs. 645 under "39 (3)—Price Control Measures—Dearness Allowance

95. Rs. 900 under "39 (3)—Price Control Measures—Travelling Allowance"

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotments of Rs. 645 under "39 (3)—Price Control Measures—Dearness Allowance" and Rs. 900 under "39 (3)—Price Control Measures—Travelling Allowance". On account of the various measures adopted by the Government for popularisation of dry grains and to relieve the food situation in the State an amount of Rs. 645 is required under "Dearness Allowance" and Rs. 900 under "Travelling Allowance". I request that the House may be pleased to grant the allotments.

Demands put and carried

96. Rs. 35,943 under "39 (3)—Price Control Measures Other charges

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 35,943, under "39 (3)—Price Control Measures—Other charges". This additiional allotment is necessitated on account of various measures adopted by the Governmen for the popularisation of dry grains and to relieve the food situation in the State namely opening of the Cochin Restaurants, Standard Meal Hotels, Standard Meat Restaurants and propaganda and advertisement. This amount is mainly required to pay subsidies to restaurants. I request that the House may be pleased to grant the allotment.

Mr. President: Mr. Ezhuthassan has tabled a cut motion. I am very doubtful whether it is in order. Although I did not hear the Hon'ble Member well I understood him to say that this Rs. 35,943 was mainly required to pay subsidies to restaurants. I don't think a discussion on Fair Price Shops will be in order on that supplementary demand. But I am prepared to hear the Hon'ble Member.

CUT MOTION

Mr.P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I do not wish to move that motion.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, I am not opposing the demand as a whole. But as regards the subsidy to Cochin Restaurants I think it is an absolute waste. The Hon'ble Member for Food Supplies has already been able to establish that we have become a wheat eating population and that wheat and other dry grains which have been imported into the State during the food crisis have been assimilated by the people so that there is no necessity at all for these grains to be popularised in future by the restaurants now run by the Government. If that is so, Sir, if the purpose of these restaurants is not to popularise the exotic products the only other purpose, according to me is that there should be certain institutions in the State which should be entering to the public at reasonably normal rates. Now, Sir, most of these restaurants are conducting their business and selling their wares at rates which approximate rates of any other institution which is not subsidised by the Government and that being so there is no reason at all why the Cochin Restaurants have to be given an extra subsidy. Therefore my submission is that it logically follows that there is no meaning at all in subsidising these institutions. Therefore, Sir, to the extent to which this particular demand contemplates a subsidy to the restaurants I very vehemently oppose it.

*Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I also oppose that portion of the demand relating to subsidy to restaurants. As stated by my Hon'ble friend, in the prices obtaining in these restaurants and in the adjoining shops privately owned there is not much difference. If there is not much difference, then for the reasons stated by my friend we cannot certainly see our way to vote for this grant for giving subsidy. Naturally, a man goes in for

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